

From: Ted McLaughlin
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Concerns regarding Microsoft settlement

I think that the currently proposed settlement is pathetically weak. I think the this administration is caving in to Microsoft in a desperate hope that it will somehow get the economy going again. They are sacrificing justice and long term security for all in the computer industry (except those who work for Microsoft) in hopes that somehow this will get the economy back on it's feet.

Microsoft has a long histroy of violating every agreement that they have made, not just with the DOJ but with computer manufacturers and competitors in the software development arena. Many an extinct company has rued the day that they entered into an agreement with Microsoft only to have the company come out later with either it's own version of the software, or with it bundled into the operating system.

I think that the quote from Bill Gates says it best: (Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates, on Thursday defended the settlement as tough but one that "we're really pleased to have.") [pulled from CNN's website]. Microsoft wants this settlement so bad it isn't funny. They will be classifying everything as anti-piracy or security to keep it private, and then when they absolutely can't fight it any longer, they will drag their feet in disclosing the information so that it is obsolete by the time it is released.

Microsoft's histroy in destroying it's competitors is well know. I know of Java developers now who are looking to transistion to Microsoft's new development program for the sole reason that Microsoft has dropped Java. They think that is the Kiss of Death for Sun and that there is no reason now to keep working on Java. This is but one example of how this industry is cowering in fear of Microsoft and how every company dreads the day that Microsoft comes out with a product that competes with their own. The current agreement will do nothing to save Sun, nor will it help save any of the other companies who are in a losing battle with Microsoft.

I also think that it is sad that the government is completely ignoring Microsoft's handling of it's Passport product. That should have been one of the things built into this agreement is something to place constraints on Microsoft's ownership of a great deal of private information. Windows XP was the biggest blow personal privacy on the internet since Microsoft got it's first T-1 line to the internet.

Another sad development is the state of the server market. Microsoft has already won the desktop war and is using that monopoly to kill off any competition that it has on the server side of things. Novell, Sun, and others are barely holding on due to the license agreements that Microsoft is putting in place to garrauntee that if you use Windows and Office on the desktop, that you will use Windows as your server as well. Too much critical information is being placed on these servers to trust Microsofts horrendous track record when it comes to security, quality, and new licensing agreements to trust them with a monopoly of the server market as well.

It is kind of funny, but also kind of scary, when any computer magazine quotes someone in the computer industry who has anything bad to say about Microsoft how they always want to be anonymous. When a network administrator at a utility company says he wants to be anonymous for fear of getting Microsoft upset that says a great deal about how out of control that company is.

Many of us Network Administrators were cheering for the DOJ when this trial started. We had hoped that the sanctions would be severe enough to keep at least some of us from having to become Network

Administrators on Windows XP networks. None of us want to work on Microsoft networks because they are flat out inferior to the competition's products, however we are all smart enough to read the writing on the wall and realize that Microsoft will soon own this market as well and we will have no choice but to either work on XP servers, or get into a new career field. Now we are all shaking our heads and are sorry that we got our hopes up. That is why I am so upset about how poorly the government has handled this settlement.

If you need to reach me for more comments feel free.

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